

October 16, 2024

Dear Residents:

Thank you for the valuable feedback regarding the proposed childcare facility at No. 326 Tolt Road. Your input is critical to our planning process and ensures the community's voices are considered in our decisions.

The Town wishes to assure residents that public concerns will be carefully evaluated as the project progresses. Approval in principle and public input are just the initial steps. The applicant must now submit detailed plans, which may include building plans, off-street parking plans, water and sewer servicing plans (with supporting assessments as required by Service NL), approval from the Department of Education, and Service NL approvals for building accessibility and fire and life safety. These plans will be reviewed in accordance with the conditions outlined in the approval in principle. Based on feedback received so far the Town will also discuss whether a traffic assessment will be warranted.

Please note that proposed development site locations are chosen by the applicant, not the Town. The applicant may propose a site based on private interest factors like market demand, accessibility, and cost. The Town's role is to review the proposed site to ensure it complies with zoning regulations, infrastructure needs, and adequate consideration of public impacts/interests. While the Town cannot suggest or require alternative locations, it can approve or deny proposals based on whether the site aligns with local regulations and community goals.

The Town also acknowledges the concerns raised about the public notification process and we understand that some feel this process was insufficient, and we will consider these comments as we review our communication methods in the future. In accordance with Development Regulations 33 and 102, notices were published in the Northeast Avalon Times and posted on the Town's website. As an additional notification process, Council also typically issues a notice to residents within 50 meters of the subject property. Council was not aware that this notice had not been circulated prior to the October 1st council meeting due to a processing error. Upon discovery of this issue, Council determined that the best course of action would be to continue with the approval process while still inviting residents to provide input and feedback. Council wishes to reassure residents that their input and feedback are welcome and that, regarding this application, residents may continue to submit input until November 8, 2024, for Council to consider.

Information related to this application may be accessed through the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPPA) coordinator. The Town is releasing information upon request, avoiding the formal application process while still adhering to the Act's objectives. Please email at claudine.murray@pcsp.ca to request information.

The Town appreciates your engagement in this process and remains committed to balancing community needs with essential services like childcare.

Jody Murray

Chief Administrative Officer